

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1, 9 and 17 have been amended to change the statement “displaying the representative of the group with the plurality of objects” to “displaying the representative of the group”. This change has been made in order to better claim in the invention and to make the independent claims 1, 9 and 17 consistent with dependent claims 4, 12 and 20. The independent claims 1, 9 and 17 now cover the case where the representative is shown with or without the other members of the group.

Figure 6 of the present invention's specification shows a display of the representative without other group members in a collapsed view. Figure 7 of the present invention's specification shows the display of the representative along with the other group members in an expanded view.

New independent claim 25 and dependent claims 26-29 have been added. Claim 25 emphasizes the expandability of a display between the collapsed view, such as that shown in figure 6 and an expanded view, such as that shown in figure 7. The cited references are not believed to show a display that switches between a collapsed and an expanded view of the representative alone and with other group members.

Independent claims 1, 9 and 17 are believed to be allowable over the cited Rosati and Ukai references. The previous arguments by the Applicant were not meant to suggest that the Applicant was dealing only with the Rosati or Ukai references individually. The Applicant meant to point out that the Ukai and Rosati reference, if combined, do not indicate the step of “designating the first selected object as a representative of the group and displaying the representative of the group” as claimed in independent claims 1, 9 and 17. Even if these references were combined as suggested by the Examiner, the step of “designating the first selected object as a representative of a group and displaying the representative of a group”, would not occur. For this reason, independent claims 1, 9 and 17 are believed to be allowable.

Claims 2-4 are dependent upon claim 1. Claims 10 and 12-16 are dependent upon claim

9. Claims 18 and 20-24 are dependent upon claim 17. For these reasons, because of additional limitations of these claims, these dependent claims are believed to be allowable.

In light of the above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now pending are allowable and notice of allowance is requested. The examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned if he can assist in any way in expediting the issuance of a patent.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 06-1325 for any matter in connection with this response, including any fee for extension of time, which may be required.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 4/15/04

By: 

Joseph P. O'Malley
Reg. No. 36,226

FLIESLER MEYER LLP
Four Embarcadero Center, Fourth Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-4156
Telephone: (415) 362-3800